



NEWS RELEASE

PRESS OFFICE

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SBA Selects Wisconsin 2009 Small Business Champions of the Year and Special Category Winners

Milwaukee: Every year since 1963, the President has proclaimed National Small Business Week to recognize the contributions of small businesses to the economic well-being of America. Each year, the U.S. Small Business Administration recognizes this special impact made by outstanding small business owners, and by champions of America's entrepreneurs. In 2009, National Small Business Week will honor the estimated 26.8 million small businesses in America. Small businesses are major contributors to the strength of the American economy, and their impact is huge.

SBA Wisconsin's 2009 small business champions and special category winners make up a variety of businesses throughout the state. The winners are:

SBA Small Business Journalist of the Year – REGIONAL WINNER – Michael Klein, Founder, President, Editorial Director of WTN Media (Wisconsin Technology Network), Verona – Digitally delivers journalism about small business and the new technology economy.

SBA Financial Services Champion – REGIONAL WINNER – Michael Phillips, Vice President, National City Bank, Milwaukee – Through his knowledge of various programs, Mike has improved financial services for minorities and other small businesses.

SBA Young Entrepreneur of the Year – REGIONAL WINNER – LaToya Robbins, Owner/Operator of LaPre Enterprises, Inc. d/b/a X-Cite Childcare, Racine – Child care services.

SBA Woman In Business Champion – REGIONAL WINNER – Laurie Benson, CEO of Inacom Information Systems, Madison – Provides technology solutions for business and education clients throughout Wisconsin and across the country.

SBA Small Business Exporter Champion – Daniel W. Schwarz, President/Owner of Dan's Fish, Inc. in Sturgeon Bay – Wisconsin's largest exporter of Great Lakes fish and caviar.

SBA Minority Small Business Champion – Wallace White, Principal/CEO of W2 Excel, LLC in Milwaukee – Provides executive management coaching with focus on business development and marketing. Provides management training, team building and relationship development to both public and private sectors.

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SBA Home Based Business Champion – Russell W. Roberts, Manager of Waukesha County Technical College (WCTC) Small Business Center – Manages the WCTC Small Business Center with a community-service focus on serving entrepreneurs throughout Wisconsin.

SBA Veteran Small Business Champion – Carl Bogar, Local Veterans Employment Representative for the State of Wisconsin, DWD, Office of Veteran Affairs – Assists service members' transition from the military to civilian lifestyle.

Jeffrey Butland Family-Owned Business of the Year - TAPCO (Traffic & Parking Control Co., Inc.), Brown Deer – Fifty-three year old family run small business that manufactures, distributes and services innovations in safety.

SBA Emerging Small Business Person of the Year – Lisa Piikkila, Co-Owner/Creative Director and **Michelle Richard**, Co-Owner/Director of Operations of Coalesce, Inc. in Appleton – Full service marketing and communications agency.

SBA Minority Small Person of the Year – Jorge Lopez, President of Nuvo Construction in Milwaukee - General contracting company.

Small Business Development Center Service Excellence Award – Small Business Development Center in Madison – Business counseling and ongoing management education.

Women's Business Center Service Excellence – Wendy K. Baumann, President/CVO of Wisconsin Women's Business Initiative Corporation (WWBIC) in Milwaukee. – Promotes economic development and personal self-sufficiency. Provides business education, one-on-one business assistance and access to capital.

In addition:

Phoenix Award Nominee for Small Business Disaster Recovery–Stephanie Wright, Owner of Wright Care Kiddie Kampus Day Care & Preschool in Fond du Lac.

The Wisconsin SBA celebration of our 2009 Small Business winners will be held June 5, 2009 at SBA and SCORE's Awards Presentation Breakfast at Country Springs Inn and Resort in Waukesha. For more information, please contact Mary Trimmier at (414) 297-1093 or email her at mary.trimmier@sba.gov.

The U.S. Small Business Administration congratulates all the winners and thanks them for their commitment and contributions to Wisconsin's small business communities.

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